the National Informatics Centre (NIC) for the computerization of city courts in the State capitals or in the cities where the principal bench of the High Court is situated.

In order to bring the entire judiciary under one network, Department of Justice has initiated a project for the computerization of District and Subordinate Courts in the States and Union Territories at a cost of Rs. 384.53 crores. NIC is the implementing agency of the entire project which will be implemented in a phased manner. Under this scheme, an amount of Rs. 103.05 crores has already been released to NIC.

(e) No such target for disposal of cases has been fixed.

Status of Fast Track Courts

2718. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE: SHRI
RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Fast Track Courts were created in 2001, as a fully centrally sponsored scheme to dispose the cases pending for more than two years and in allocation of more than 500 crores was made by the 11th Finance Commission; *i*

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases disposed of by these Fast Track Courts so far;

(d) whether Government have taken a decision not to continue with these Fast Track Courts;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) how Government propose to clear the huge backlog of pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) At the initiative of the Department of Justice, the Eleventh Finance Commission recommended the establishment of 1734 Fast Track Courts to dispose of long pending sessions and other cases, pending for more than two years with an

allocation of Rs. 502.90 crores. This is outside the Centrally Sponsored Scheme and is an Upgradation and Special Problem Grant given by the 11th Finance Commission.

(c) As per information available with the Department of Justice, as on 31st March, 2005, so far the Fast Track Courts have disposed of 6.87 lakh cases.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. In fact, the Department of Justice had requested the 12th Finance Commission to recommend the continuation of existing Fast Track Courts and creation of another 1500 new Fast Track Courts at the Magisterial Level. However, the 12th Finance Commission has not made any recommendations in this regard.

(f) The Government have been constantly reviewing the accumulation of arrears in courts. Besides increasing the Judge strength from time to time, various steps have been taken by the courts, *viz.,* grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialized benches and organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals, etc.

The Government has also encouraged alternative modes of disposal including mediation, negotiation and arbitration. Special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunal, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, Family Courts, Labour Courts, Consumer Courts, etc. have been set up to expedite disposal of cases Information Technology is being used in generation of cause lists, providing information to the litigants and advocates for speedy disposal of cases.

Judge-Population ratio

2719. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that India's Judge-Population ratio is the lowest in the world;

(b) whether it is also a fact that backlog of pending cases is on the rise; and